



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

13 CONVICTED SEX OFFENDERS ARRESTED BY ICE

Men from seven countries convicted of sex crimes against children face deportation

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—Thirteen criminal aliens convicted for sex crimes against children were arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents in an intensive three-day operation here.

The arrests are part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators. The state of Minnesota ranks eighth in the nation for the number of Operation Predator arrests since the program began in July 2003.

As convicted criminal aliens, they are now eligible for deportation to their countries of origin.

“Those who commit serious crimes risk losing their right to remain in the United States,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Cangemi of the ICE office in Bloomington. “We put people who sexually abuse the most vulnerable among us at the top of our list for arrest and removal.” Cangemi oversees the enforcement of immigration and customs laws in a five-state area that includes Minnesota.

The following convicted criminal aliens were arrested Sunday, Monday and today:

Seng Yang, 31, a citizen of Laos, was convicted in 1995 of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and sentenced to 86 months in prison. Yang raped a 12-year-old girl twice after he and other gang members forced her to drink alcohol.

Catarino Ariel Reyes-Franco, 43, a citizen of Mexico, was originally charged with two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct. He ultimately pleaded guilty in March 2004 to malicious punishment of a child. The victim was a six-year-old boy, who, according to court documents, was molested manually and orally by Reyes-Franco.

Petros Goumas, 47, a citizen of Canada, was sentenced in April 1997 to fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. On two separate occasions, Goumas drove a 14-year-old coworker home after work. On the way they stopped at a park, where he undressed the underage girl and they engaged in sex.

Xao Vang, 36, a citizen of Laos, was convicted in 1995 of second-degree criminal sexual conduct. Vang and a friend picked up two juvenile girls and attempted to fondle them.

Chou Thao, 25, a citizen of Thailand, was convicted in 2003 of first-degree criminal sexual conduct for raping a 13-year-old female relative who is mentally disabled.

Faisal Sharif Ahmed Abdi, 24, a citizen of Somalia, was found guilty of fifth-degree criminal sexual conduct in 2002. Abdi grabbed and groped a 15-year-old female coworker multiple times, even though she repeatedly pushed him away and told him to stop.

Yia Vang, 42, a citizen of Laos, was convicted in 2002 of prostitution. Vang prostituted a 16-year-old girl more than 100 times.

Ghiyath Chehadeh, 31, a citizen of Syria, was convicted of fourth degree criminal sexual conduct in June 2003. Chehadeh was working for an electronics store when he delivered a television to an address where a 14-year-old girl was babysitting. Chehadeh forced the girl onto a bed and attempted to run his hand under her clothing. She fought him off and he fled.

Intiaz Nadir Alli Badrudeen, 30, a citizen of Guyana, was initially charged with second-degree rape but pleaded guilty to sexual misconduct. While possessing a handgun, he had sex with a 13-year-old girl. Badrudeen also admitted to entering into a fraudulent marriage with a friend so that she could obtain a "green card."

Chong Toua Vue, 40, a citizen of Laos, was convicted in June 2002 for prostitution. Vue paid \$30 for sex with a 16-year-old girl. Her boyfriend, who received the money, coerced the girl into the act.

Chong Vang, 20, a citizen of Thailand, was convicted in April 2004 of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. The victim was a 13-year-old acquaintance.

Jose Omar Garcia-Garcia, 21, a citizen of Mexico, was convicted in December 2003 of third degree criminal sexual conduct. Garcia-Garcia and a 13-year-old girl were at a beer party and were both intoxicated; they went outdoors and engaged in sex.

Ger Nhia Vue Lee, 56, a citizen of Laos, was convicted of second-degree criminal sexual conduct in June 2002. Lee repeatedly sexually assaulted a 15-year-old female relative who is developmentally disabled.

All those arrested have been placed in removal proceedings and will appear before a federal immigration judge, who will make the final determination regarding each man's removal status. Most of the men are currently U.S. permanent residents, commonly referred to as "green card" holders.

Today's arrests are part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,900 individuals, including 147 in Minnesota.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.